



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**HB16-1315**

**FISCAL NOTE**

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-1074  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Melton  
Sen. Todd

**Date:** March 21, 2016  
**Bill Status:** House Transportation and Energy  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Erin Reynolds (303-866-4146)

**BILL TOPIC:** ALLOW SEAPLANES IN STATE PARKS LIKE MOTORBOATS

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2016-2017</b>	<b>FY 2017-2018</b>
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	Minimal workload increase.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill includes seaplanes within the statutory definition of a "vessel" and prohibits the Parks and Wildlife Commission, municipalities, and special districts from arbitrarily excluding seaplanes from state park waters that are open to the operation of motorboats. The bill also exempts seaplanes, which are to be registered and numbered pursuant to federal law, from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) boat registration program in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

**Background**

The CPW Registration Unit registers boats, off-highway vehicles, and snowmobiles. Unless exempt, any vessel operated on the waters of Colorado or at a vessel staging area must be registered with the CPW and display that registration number on the vessel's hull. Exempted vessels include canoes, kayaks, inner tubes, non-motorized or hand-propelled craft, and vessels registered in another jurisdiction. Funds raised through the boat registration program support CPW's boating safety activities, which include running a statewide patrol team, training marine officers, producing educational materials and classes, and maintaining recreational boating facilities. Registration fees are also used in the United States Coast Guard's calculations for federal matching funds under the Recreational Boat Safety grant program. In FY 2014-15, a total of 85,158 vessels were registered with the CPW. Under current state regulations, aircraft are prohibited from landing on or taking off from any lands or waters managed by CPW.

## State Expenditures

In FY 2016-17 only, Parks and Wildlife Commission workload will increase in order to consider and potentially develop a policy for the operation of seaplanes on state park waters. Some legal services may be required. These workload increases can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

## Local Government and Statutory Public Entity Impact

Like the state, municipalities and special districts are expected to consider and potentially develop a policy for the operation of seaplanes on state park waters within their jurisdictions. This will increase workloads for these jurisdictions that include state park waters, but this workload increase is expected to be minimal.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 10, 2016, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Counties  
Municipalities

Information Technology  
Natural Resources

Law  
Special Districts

## Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB 16-1315 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.